

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 remain pending after amendment.

Specification Amendments

Various editorial revisions are made in the specification. No new matter is added by this amendment.

Claim Amendments

Claim 1 is amended to clarify the invention. Claims 4 and 8 are amended to change "high frequency" to "RF". No new matter is added by this amendment.

Objection to Drawings

The Examiner objects to the drawings because they include reference to "1b" and "27" as not being mentioned in the specification", as well as page 11 of the specification for making reference to numeral "1" which is not recited in the drawings.

In response, the drawings are amended to delete reference to "27" and "1". The specification is amended to insert reference to "1a" and "1b" to be consistent with the drawings.

A substitute sheet of drawings (Figures 4-7) is submitted herewith wherein "27" is deleted from Figure 6 and "1" is deleted from Figure 7.

The objection is thus moot and should be withdrawn.

Objection to Specification

The Examiner raises an objection to the specification for the reasons set forth at page 3 of the Action.

In response, the specification is generally amended in the manner suggested by the Examiner.

As a result, the objection is now believed moot and should be withdrawn.

Rejection under 35 USC 112 (paragraph two)

Claims 4 and 8 stand rejected under 35 USC 112 (paragraph two) as not distinctly claiming the invention.

In response, claims 4 and 8 are amended to replace "high frequency" with "RF" for radio frequency. Support for this amendment resides at page 19, line 12.

The rejection is thus moot and should be withdrawn.

Rejection under 35 USC 102(e)

Claims 1 and 3-8 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Seshan U.S. Patent No. 6,686,659. This rejection respectfully is traversed to the extent deemed to apply to the claims as amended.

In response, applicants note that the Examiner considers terminals 504 as corresponding to the peripheral electrodes in applicants' claims. However, terminals 504 are floating terminals

to adjust circuit characteristics and differ from the peripheral electrodes in the present invention.

In order to more clearly define over the cited reference, applicants amend claim 1 to recite "the same signal is either an input and/or output either to or from both an internal electrode and peripheral electrode." The invention of claim 1 (as amended) is clearly not anticipated by the cited reference, and the rejection should be withdrawn.

Rejection of Claim 2 under 35 USC 103(a)

Claim 2 stands rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Seshan in view of Arnold et al U.S. Patent No. 4,521,449. This rejection respectfully is traversed to the extent deemed to apply to the claims as amended.

It is the Examiner's view that pads 24 of Figure 2 of the '449 patent correspond to the internal electrodes, while pads 42 correspond to the peripheral electrodes. Although the pads 24 are smaller than pads 42, there is no basis for the conclusion that these pads should be considered to correspond to the internal and peripheral electrodes irrespective of the respective sizes.

The rejection is thus believed to be without basis and should be withdrawn.

Rejection of Claims 1-4 under 35 USC 103(a)

Claims 1-4 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fang U.S. Patent No. 6,713,870. This rejection respectfully is traversed.

The Examiner takes the position that the metal wire 55 of the '870 patent corresponds to the internal line of applicants' claim 1. However, the metal wire 55 is not an internal line - hence, it does not correspond to the internal line of claim 1.

The rejection is thus without basis and should be withdrawn.

Rejection of Claims 5-8 under 35 USC 103(a)

Claims 5-8 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fang '870 in view of Galloway U.S. Patent No. 5,886,414. This rejection respectfully is traversed.

The Examiner takes the position that the metal wire 55 disclosed in the '870 patent corresponds to the internal line of claim 5. However, the metal wire 55 is clearly not an internal line - as such, the reference does not disclose or suggest the claimed invention.

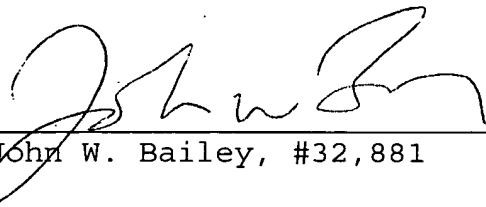
The rejection is thus without basis and should be withdrawn.

In view of the above, the application is believed to be in condition for allowance.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By 
John W. Bailey, #32,881

JWB/JWH/sh

P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000

Attachment: Replacement Sheet of Drawings (Figures 4-7)

IN THE DRAWINGS:

Replace the drawing sheet for Figures 4-7 with the attached replacement sheet of drawings.